

# Welcome to the PRO AKIS Final conference

University Foundation

Brussels, May 20, 2015



Funded by European Commission  
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# Programme of the day

## 20<sup>th</sup> of May **Focussing Advisory services in the European AKIS**

### **Impact and evaluation of advisory services**

- 9:00**
- Introduction, Andrea Knierim
  - Insights from the PRO AKIS systematic review with relevance for the FAS Evaluation in Europe  
Pierre Labarthe (INRA, France)
  - On Evaluation of Advisory Services - examples within and beyond Europe  
Chris Garforth (University of Reading, UK)
  - Questions and discussion in the plenary

**10:30** Coffee Break

### **Challenges for European advisory services**

- 11:00**
- Key findings from PRO AKIS case studies  
Livia Madureira (Universidade Trás-os-Montes, Portugal)  
with consortium members and the audience

**13:00**  
Lunch Break

### **The AKIS inventory and future research**

- 14:00**
- The making of the inventory -  
Inter- and transdisciplinary dynamics in PRO AKIS, Andrea Knierim
  - Panel discussion on future AKIS research and the use of PRO AKIS outputs

**16:00** **Final remarks and closure of conference**  
Inge van Oost (DG Agriculture, EU COM), Andrea Knierim





# Evaluation of advisory services – looking closer at FAS in PRO AKIS

May 20, 2015

Intro

1st session



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# On FAS in the EU from the PRO AKIS inventory

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- ❖ Selected empirical findings
- ❖ Some tentative general remarks

How was FAS addressed in PRO AKIS?



# Selected findings on FAS

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- In some MS, FAS related advice is integrated in existing advisory services and then not explicitly addressed or used by farmers
  - *„...a number of advisors have been trained and certified but in practice no farmers demanded or had any need for advice according to the formal umbrella of FAS" (DK)*
  - *„FAS is not particular well known in Finland. It is hard to find a list of approved advisers....ProAgria is well advanced covering already itself the SMR and GAEC requirements." (FI)*



# Selected findings on FAS

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- ❖ Statements reveal a low importance placed on, and a disconnection from, the FAS from other advisory services
  - „few organisations and farmers have been involved and the impacts of these advisory services are quite small" (Portugal)
  - „The results of the programme are rather moderate" (Greece)
- ❖ While in other countries FAS was obviously used to strengthen the existing (public) advisory system  
(Bulgaria)



# Selected findings on FAS in the EU from the PRO AKIS inventory

- ❖ Financing procedures / bureaucratic obstacles discourage farmers
  - *„FAS could be strongly improved in Hungary, if TACs [advisory body] could... pre-finance instead of the farmer" (Hungary)*
  - *„To high costs to the farmers" (Poland)*
  - *„there are a large number of farmers who require this advice and support but who are unable to receive it (monetary issues...)" (Ireland)*



# Selected findings on FAS in the EU from the PRO AKIS inventory

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- ❖ Implementing procedures revealed tensions among (new) AKIS actors
  - *E.g. „competing FAS networks between cooperatives, chambers and bookkeepers in certain French regions" (France)*
  - *E.g. Bookkeepers as main FAS organisations in Flanders (Belgium)*
  - *FMS as obligation of (subsidised) FAS results in a confusing diversity of tools, non-transparent market (Germany)*





# General observations from the PRO AKIS inventory

- ✓ Diversity of FAS operating bodies is as high as that of AKIS in general in the EU -> no easy appraisal of institutional performance.
- ✓ Importance of FAS in terms of ‚relevant knowledge‘ seems to be (very) low - however no broad empirical evidence due to lack of data.
- ✓ Also, the ways and the beneficiaries of financing FAS merit closer monitoring and evaluation.
- ❖ *Not possible to obtain a consistent overview through PRO AKIS survey!*
- ❖ **Proposal to use survey results on FAS as a proxy for learning on advisory services in general**





# Outcomes of PRO AKIS – challenges for the European advisory services

May 20, 2015

Intro in the 2nd session



# Shortcomings and gaps in the AKIS

Generally: Weak AKISs lack coordinating structures and / or integrative policies.

New and/or marginal group users in the AKIS (e.g. New-entrants, young farmers, small-scale farmers) risk being inappropriately addressed, disadvantaged or excluded.

Privatisation of advisory services creates competitive situations for various AKIS actors and may lead to inefficiencies and/or to gaps in the AKIS.

In a number of states or regions we noted gaps in the provision of production knowledge that were filled by activities of rural networks - on a project basis





## On the future of AKIS research and the use of PRO AKIS outputs

**PRO AKIS, Final conference**

**Brussels, May 20, 2015**



**Intro in  
the 3rd session**



# Making of the inventory

Task: design a common concept and a common methodological approach for research in the EU member states, partly conducted by subcontractors, aiming to produce 27 country reports!

## Challenges:

- common concept and understanding;
- common methodological approach;
- Getting and processing answers from the field;
- .... and processing and integrating them once again.




# Making of the inventory

## Inventory

PRO AKIS has compiled an inventory of the AKIS organisations, institutions and their linkages in EU-27 on the basis of the analytical framework.

The inventory consists of

- [country reports](#) (AKIS and advisory organisations in each country),
- [country posters](#) (AKIS diagram and summary points from the report),
- a [synthesis report](#) (volume I and II),
- a [searchable database](#) of the core information describing advisory services and AKIS in each of the 27 EU member states, visualised in [a map](#), and
- a [searchable directory of advisory organisations](#)  in Europe (with the opportunity for agricultural advisory organisations to add their details).

The findings on the inventory for all 27 European countries were presented and discussed with participants at three semi-public [regional workshops](#) in Denmark, Poland and France in February and March 2014.

If you would like to get in touch regarding the searchable database of advisory organisations in the EU-27 and the directory, please select the contact for your country [here](#) or use the comment form on the respective page.



# Making of the inventory

**Dominant Org Type** All **Status FAS** All

**Time of Establishment** All **Start of FAS Operation** All

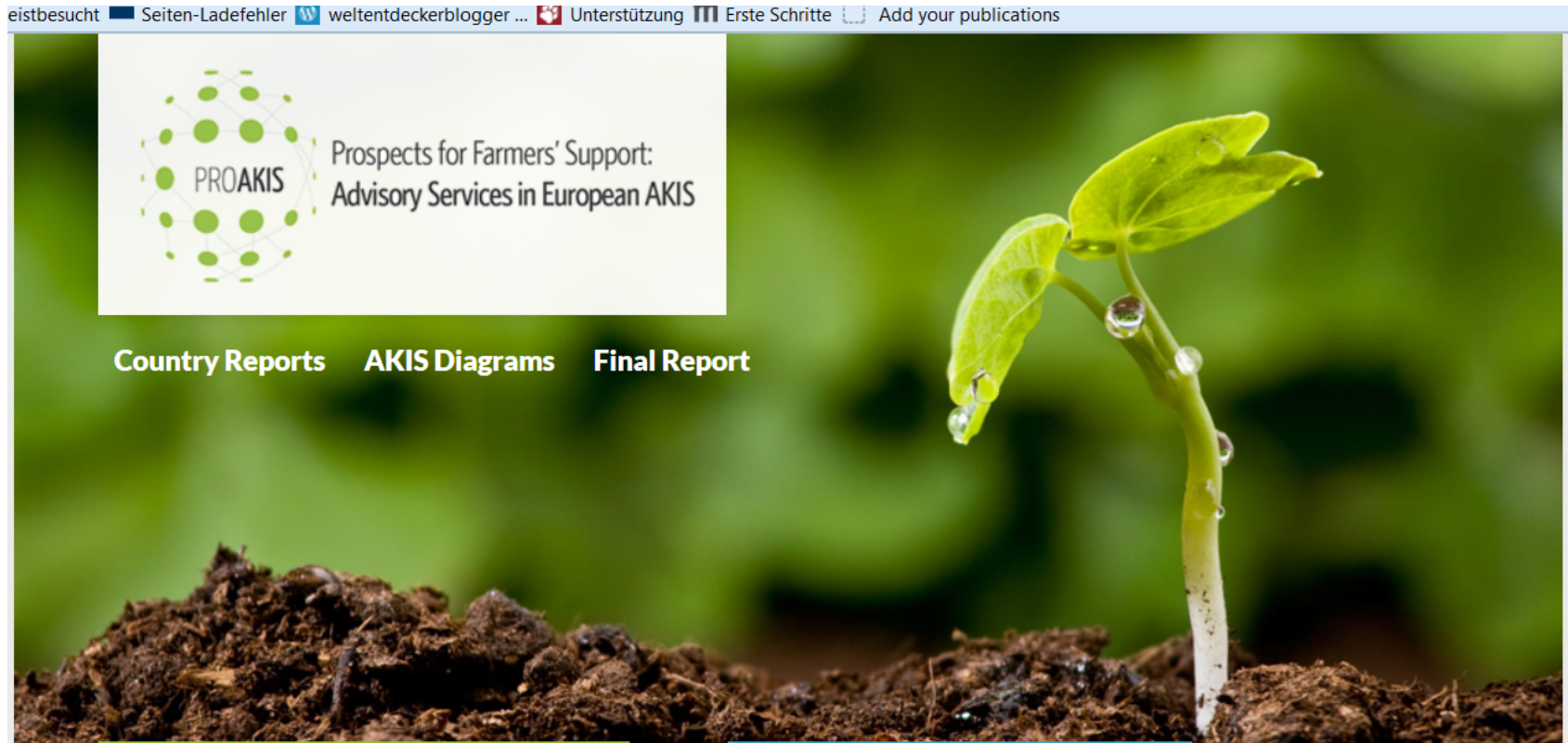
**Agricultural Chambers** All

Country	Time of establishment of advisory services	Agricultural chamber(s)	Type of the dominant advisory organisation	Start of FAS operation	Status of FAS operating body	Download Report
Austria	before 1900	yes	farmer-based organisation	2007	public	<a href="#">View Report (PDF)</a>
Belgium	undefined	no	farmer-based organisation	2006	mixed public/private and private profit	<a href="#">View Report (PDF)</a>
Bulgaria	from 1990	no	public	2008	public	<a href="#">View Report</a>

**Searchable database on advisory servive organisation**



# Making of the inventory



**Inventory of advisory organisations  
throughout Europe – *to be complemented!***

